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Message Text

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64
ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HEW-08 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 COME-00 EB-11

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /160 W
---------- 039693
R 011655Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9457
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O: 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, IN
SUBJECT: LABOR STRIFESTATUS: AD HOC SOLUTIONS

REF: NEW DELHI'S 1131

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE GOVERNMENT IS APPARENTLY EVOLVING A SORT OF CARROT AND STICK APPROACH TO ORGANIZED LABOR, TREATING EACH DISPUTE ON AN AD HOC BASIS. STRIKERS' RESOURCES AND STAMINA APPEAR TO BE DRAINING OFF AND THE WAVE OF LABOR STRIFE IN THE COUNTRY APPEARS ON THE WANE FOR THE TIME BEING. BUT THE UNDERLYING RESTIVENESS CONTINUES. END SUMMARY.

1. EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE A NATION-WIDE HOSPITAL SHUTDOWN IN SUPPORT OF APPROXIMATELY 2,500 JUNIOR DOCTORS (JUNIOR RESIDENTS) IN DELHI'S SEVEN GOI-RUN OR SUBSIDIZED HOSPITALS (ON STRIKE SINCE JAN. 1, 1974) HAVE APPARENTLY FAILED. THEIR ROOF ORGANIZATION, THE ALL-INDIA FEDERATION OF JUNIOR DOCTORS' ASSOCIATIONS (AIFJDA) "DEFERRED"A PLANNED NATIONAL STRIKE ON FEB 1, OSTENSIBLY TO ALLOW GOI TO "RECONSIDER" ITS STAND. EARLIER, IN SUPPORT OF DELHI
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DOCTORS APPROXIMATELY 40,000 MORE INVARIOUS STATES WENT ON A SYMPATHY

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STRIKE FOR TWO DAYS (JAN 28-29). THE DELHI STRIKE HAS VIRTUALLY PARALYZED MEDICAL FACILITIES IN INDIA' CAPITAL. THE GOI HEALTH MINISTRY CONTINUES TO MAKE HIGHLY SUSPECT CLAIMS THAT NO SERIOUS BREAKDOWN OF MEDICAL FACILITIES HAS OCCURRED.

2. EMPLOYEES OF THE NATIONALIZED LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION (LIC) RETURNED TO WORK JAN 25. THE GOI, ASSUMING A "TOUGH" POSTURE, BACKED THE LIC MANAGEMENT, WHICH HAD AGRED TO SUBSTANTIAL WAGE INCREASES, ALLOWANCES, AND FRINGE BENEFITS, WHILE ALSO INVOKING A PARTIAL LOCKOUT TO PRESSURE THE UNIONS. FOR THE CITU-CPM (DISTATEFUL AS IT IS TO THE GOI) AND AITUC-CPI UNIONS WHICH DOMINATE THE INDUSTRY, THE SETTLEMENT WAS A SIGNIFICANT VICTORY.

3. ALTHOUGH MOST INDIAN AIRLINES (IA) EMPLOYEES HAVE SIGNED INDIVIDUAL AGREEMENTS ON MANAGEMENT TERMS (NEW DELHI 0494), NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE FOR COLLECITVE BARGINING AGREEMENTS WITH THE UNIONS. IA SERCICES HAVE NOT QUITE RETURNED TO NORMAL.

4. WITH THE PRIVATE EMPLOYERS, THE GOI, AND INTUC TEXTILE UNIONS HOLDING FIRM, THE STRIKE OF BOMBAY TEXTILE WORKERS INITIATED DEC 30., HAS BEGUN TO FAIL, (INTUC UNION SOURCES CLAIM 40 ATO 45 PER CENT ATTENDANCE OF THE 200,000 EMPLOYED IN THE INDUSTRY). CITU-CPM AND AITUC-CPI LEADERS ORGANIZED THE STRIKE TO OPPOSE A NEW AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED BY THE CONGRESS-ALIGNED INTUC-AFFILIATED RMMS, WITH THE CPM REPORTEDLY ENGAGING IN WIDESPREAD INTIMIDATION TO KEEP THE STRIKE GOING. AITUC-CPI GEN. SECY (& CPI PRESIDENT) S.A. DANGE, WE ARE INFORMED, HAS FAILED IN PRIVATE EFFORTS WITH EMPLOYERS TO GET A FACE-SAVING SETTLEMENT. HIS PUBLIC APPEAL TO THE PRIME MINISTER TO INTERVENE HAS BROUGHT NO RESPONSE. DANGE HAS NOW PUBLICLY DENOUNCED MRS. GANDHI AS NO LONGER BEING "A PROGRESSIVE" AND THREATENED TO WITHDRAW CPI SUPPORT TO THE CONGRESS. "RADICAL" CONGRESS PARTY WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBER, CHANDRA SHEKHAR, RETORTED "MR. DANGE HAS AGAIN TAKEN ON A PUBLIC POSTURE OF MILITANCY OSTENSIBLY TO KEEP UP THE MORALE OF THIS RANK AND FILE. HE IS FULLY AWAREOF THE SUSTENANCE THAT HIS PARTY HAS RECEIVED AND IS RECEIVING FROM THE CONGRESS.(REPORTEDLY, TENSION BETWEEN THE ANTI-CONGRESS DANGE FACTION AND THE PRO-CONGRESS BHUPESH GUPTA FACTION IN THE CPI IS GROWING DAILY.)

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5. IN THE JUTE INDUSTRY DISPUTE, RESISTANCE OF STRIKERS LED BY A COMBINATION OF LEFTIST UNION GROUPS SEEMS TO BE WAINING. A SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY OF THE 250,000 JUTE WORKERS IN THE CALCUTTA AREA, REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN OUT SINCE JAN 14. THEY WERE DEMANDING WAGE INCREASES, BONUS AND FRINGE BENEFITS GREATER THAN HAD BEEN AGREED UPON EARLIER WITH THE INTUC AND HMS UNIONS. THE WEAKLY ORGANIZED JUTE WORKERS HAVE FREQUENTLY RESPONDED TO STRIKE CALLS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES BY ODD COMBINATIONS OF UNION

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FACTIONS. A CALL BY THE CPI, CPM, AND OTHER LEFTIST GROUPS FOR A
STRIKE OF ALL INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN CALCUTTA AREA ON
JAN 31, IN SUPPORT OF JUTE WORKERS, REPORTEDLY HAD LITTLE
EFFECTIVE RESPONSE.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, LABOR STRIKES, LABOR OBJECTIVES, HOSPITALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE01679
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740262/aaaacgbd.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEW DELHI'S 1131
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR STRIFESTATUS: AD HOC SOLUTIONS
TAGS: ELAB, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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